

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-27, 31, 33, and 35-37 are now in the application. Claims 1, 7, 31, and 37 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

In item 6 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 31, 35, and 37 have been rejected as being anticipated by Winzer et al. (4,339,290) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 1, 7, 31, and 37 have been amended to better define the invention.

Support for the change relating to the wavelength-selective filter can be found by referring to claim 2 and to the specification at page 20, lines 1-17, for example.

Support for the change to claims 1 and 7, relating to the fact that light is coupled between said optical component and the first and/or second glass ferrules without being guided by an optical waveguide, can be found by referring to page 19, line 17 through page 20, line 17 and to Fig. 3B. Fig. 3B shows, for example, that there is not an optical waveguide that couples light between the ferrule 62 and the diode 10. There is basically a free-beam region.

Claims 1, 7, 31, and 37 now include a wavelength-selective filter.

Winzer et al. do not describe using a wavelength-selective filter.

Additionally, claims 1 and 7 define an electro-optical module for transmitting and/or receiving optical signals, whereby the module has a transmitting component and/or a detecting component.

In contrast, Winzer et al. only describe a branching element. Winzer et al. do not teach a module with a transmitting component and/or a detecting component.

Further, claims 1 and 7 specify that the light travels between the ferrule and the transmitting and/or a detecting component without being guided by an optical waveguide.

In contrast, Winzer et al. teach that the light emitted from the ferrule 3 is coupled into an optical waveguide 10. It is not important thereby that the light initially passes through a free-beam region (in front of the lens 9'). A coupling of the received or emitted light with a transmission or receiving element directly through a free-beam region (if necessary by

interconnecting a lens) without using an optical waveguide located therebetween is not described or suggested in Winzer.

In item 8 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 2, 3, 17-19, 24, 26, and 27 have been rejected as being obvious over Winzer et al. (4,339,290) in view of Kaiser (4,701,012) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

A combination of Winzer et al. with Kaiser does not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the instant invention. It is pointed out that the light in Kaiser also is coupled in or coupled out in an optical waveguide 23 to 28. One of ordinary skill in the art does not obtain any information with regard to an electro-optical module where a free-beam region is realized between a transmitting component or a detecting component and the glass ferrule, from which the light laterally enters and leaves, i.e., that a direct coupling is present.

Furthermore, the assumption that the person of skill in the art would combine Kaiser reference and Winzer is based on an inadmissible hindsight consideration. Winzer only describes an optical fiber coupler. There is no information relating to transmitting the optical signals of at least two optical data channels or to multiplexing and demultiplexing. One of ordinary skill in the art thus has no reason to use the

wavelength-selective filter known from Kaiser for the Winzer reference.

In item 9 on page 5 of the Office action, claims 15 and 36 have been rejected as being obvious over Winzer et al. (4,339,290) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

These claims are patentable for the reasons given above with regard to claims 1 and 7.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 7, 31, or 37.

Claims 1, 7, 31, and 37 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on one of these claims, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 7-27, 31, 33, and 35-37 are solicited.

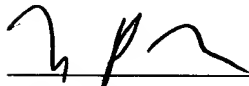
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, he is respectfully requested to telephone counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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For Applicants

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